

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**PARKS COMMISSIONERS (HYBRID AND VIA ZOOM)**  
**SELECTBOARD'S MEETING ROOM**  
**334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023**  
**5:15 PM.**

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of September 19, 2023 (Discussion/Roll Call Vote)

A motion was made by Paul to approve and seconded by Terry. Vote: 8-0

Minutes of October 16, 2023 (Discussion/Roll Call Vote)

A motion was made by Stephen to approve and seconded by Terry. Vote 8-0

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST:**

A. Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce/Betsy Andrus for Holiday Stroll Fireworks at Memorial Field on December 9, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote)

A motion was made by Stephen and seconded by Terry to approve. Vote 7-1

4. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Joe Aberdale – The floor is finished at the Housatonic Community Center. Softball field and Little League field are 80% complete. Olympian Meadows – lower driveway done. Grove Street Parking done and the handicapped access done. The rail trail to Amerigas should be up and running by Thanksgiving.

B. Summary of bid/upgrade of Memorial Field – The sod will be down this year. There is an option to replace the fence. 4" of infield mix replaced. The trees were pruned at Stanley Park. He noted he would like to consolidate the monuments.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Berkshire South Regional Community Center – end of season report – Mark DelSignore was present. He submitted a report which is part of the record of these minutes.

Housatonic The average number of people in the park during staffed hours 3.28 (up from 1.85 in 2022) Two staff on at a time. There were no major incidents. Activities were driven by the interests of the children. A water sprinkler was appreciated on hot days. He suggested budgeting for special events like the Audubon Society.

Lake Mansfield – He noted the highest attendance was July 15<sup>th</sup> at 652 People. The summer attendance was strong. There were two "risk of drowning incidents involving young toddlers. The parents/guardian were educated about water safety. It was suggested to hire someone to monitor the parking etc. because it is difficult for the lifeguards to monitor the beach and parking areas. There were a lot of fish hooks found on the beach area by the lifeguards. No fishing signs need to be posted in the swim area.

B. Railroad Street Youth – end of season report – Devon Wagner was present. He submitted an end of year report which is part of these minutes. The program ran from 5/1 to 10/31. The total number of visits tracked was 1075. The weather was a challenge at times with rain and heat. He noted that the water fountain does work. Railroad Street offered free water. He also noted parking continues to be a challenge.

C. Ruby Aver – Tai Chi at the Housatonic Community Center – Ruby agreed to pay \$25.00 per month for the space. She said she would make a payment for November. She would be out of town for the months of December and January. This was brought up because she has been using the center for a while for free.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Soccer Field at Olympian Meadows Tom said the current field is 110 yards long by 60 yards wide. A regulation field is 110 yards long by 70 yards wide. It was agreed to contact Tighe and Bond or Foresight to evaluate it. Also Chris Rembold would have to be notified if the River Walk is moved back.

B. Lake Mansfield Weeds – Bill Meier drafted a letter to the Conservation Commission asking them to address the weeds in Lake Mansfield. On a motion made by Stephen and seconded by Terry, It was approved 8-0 to send the letter to the Conservation Commission.

C. Skate Park at Memorial Field – The basketball court is highly used. There was a suggestion to make it a multiuse court. New hoops need to be put up. A study needs to be done on redoing the court and skate park.

D. Memorial Field overage of \$67,000 – Joe said there is a possibility that he may return to Parks for some additional funds. The bid was \$567,000 and we only had \$500,000 approved. This was put in to allow to use \$67,000 from the budget.

E. Great Barrington Master Plan Action – Conservation Commission – See Lake Mansfield

F. Planning Board Master Plan – Committee Assignments – Table until a future meeting and have Brandy come to a meeting.

G. Dodge Ball – Karen said they are doing this in Lee. It could possibly be done at the Housatonic Community Center on Saturday. A recreational director may be needed. This would have to go before a town meeting.

7. **CITIZENS SPEAK:**

Megan Flynn said she was happy with the handicapped accessible work that was done.

8. **COMMISSIONER SPEAK:**

Bill Meier said he pulled the lines from the lake.

Paul noted to remember that Memorial Field is actually Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Field which is to honor everyone who served in the armed forces.

Ilana said a cross walk needs to be put in to get to Olympian Meadows from Main Street.

Karen said a vote on CPA will be done at the December meeting entertaining a proposal from the DPW to make the court at Grove Street or Dewey a pickle ball court.

9. **PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2024 (ATTACHED)**

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Carolyn Wichmann

*Carolyn Wichmann*

Recording Clerk

**THE NEXT MEETING OF PARKS WILL BE:**

**DECEMBER 11, 2023 AT 5:15 P.M.**